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Martha Conner

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Gladys English

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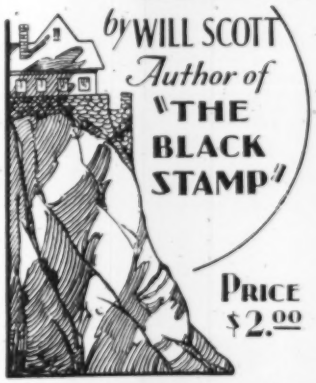

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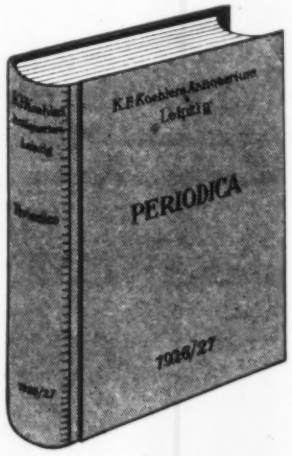

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THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

FEBRUARY 15, 1928

HOW TO STUDY REFERENCE BOOKS

BY MARTHA CONNER

Instructor of Reference Work in the Carnegie Library School of Pittsburgh

ONE of the fundamental courses in a library school curriculum is the reference course, for ability to do reference work is necessary in order to pursue satisfactorily any other subject. Also some reference work is required in every library position. The reference course necessarily begins with a study of those books which are especially compiled and arranged to find facts easily, and which are ordinarily termed reference books. Since there are many of these books and a limited time in which to become familiar with them, an efficient method of study greatly adds to the effectiveness of the course.

Study* has been defined as "the forcing of the mental processes along new pathways, the forcing of the nerve impulses thru groups of perhaps thousands of neurones where they have not been exactly before."[1] Study signifies the ability to direct one's mental energies effectively in carrying thru to successful completion some reasonable undertaking. Skill in study is the power of effective, independent self-direction. Study entails voluntary attention which should grow to absorption as increasing interest stimulates.

The learning cycle is stimulation, assimilation, reaction. Some motive has prompted the student to enter the library school, so that the stimulus of the wish to learn is presumably present. The presentation of the subject in teaching furnishes further stimulus. No real learning takes place without that emotional condition which we call interest, and which may or may not be associated with pleasure, for it frequently arouses willingness to endure toil and hardship. Interest establishes motivation or desire to learn, which must be sustained and increased as the learning process proceeds, even to absorption. If learning has its own initial appeal, motivation will take care of itself.[2]

The reference course will be self-motivating to students with much intellectual curiosity, to others it will not be so appealing. But students will have to realize that in the library profession, as in all professions, there are duties which are not initially interesting, and that they will have to acquire the ability to apply themselves to learning which in itself is not interesting. A motivation founded on a sense of duty only may, as the learner progresses and the subject develops, becomes an absorbing interest. Students who have learned this will eventually develop a sustained motivation.

Assimilation carries thru the process of study and recitation. "Effective assimilation and learning to study are related. Opportunity for assimilation is opportunity for study, and effective guidance in assimilation is training in the art of study."[3] Reaction takes place in the solving of reference problems by the use of reference tools.

"Each type of teaching has its own method of study, and the mission of the teacher is to

[1] Dearborn, George Van N. *How to Learn Easily.* Boston: Little, 1916. p. 14.

* Grateful acknowledgment for guidance in this study is made to Dr. Q. A. W. Rohrbach of the School of Education of the University of Pittsburgh.

[2] Morrison, H. C. *Practice of Teaching in the Elementary Schools.* Chicago: University Press. 1926. Chap. 7.

[3] Ibid. Chap. 16.

put the student in effective control of the methods peculiar to that type. Pupils should know how to study, have developed in them the inclination to attack their environment thru study and be capable of formulating their own problems and of studying at the level of self-independence." [4]

The teaching of reference work is of the science type of teaching for its objectives are adjustments in the form of principles or processes in the relation of cause and effect. [5] The learning process is reflection upon experience. The teacher presents the reference problem and provides the material for its solution in the form of reference books. By the process of examination and reflection upon this experience, the solution of the problem is found.

As each type of teaching has its own learning process so each subject has its own variation of the type to which it belongs. There are no general rules for the study of all subjects, tho there are elements common to many. Nearly all of the treatises on study include methods for acquiring right reading habits. Since the ability to read rapidly and with understanding is necessary in all effective study, this is one of the elements common to the study of all subjects.

The products of learning are either adjustments in the form of understanding, or appreciation, or special abilities, or skills. An understanding of the principles of economics and finance, for instance, changes a man's whole attitude towards the business world, an appreciation of beauty in color and form increases his joy in nature. Special abilities are found in the performance of music, in dancing, in the use of languages. "Skill is nearly synonymous with facility. When a pupil has attained a given adjustment, with all that implies, he has frequently to go on acquiring certain skills in the application of his new attitude or ability to the situations which call for its use. ..... Skill seems to consist largely in the facility with which the individual identifies the elements of the situations which are subject to interpretation in terms of the new attitude." [6]

The chief product of learning in an elementary reference course is an adjustment in the form of an understanding of the use of reference tools, such as periodical indexes, dictionaries, bibliographies and encyclopedias of special subjects especially compiled and arranged to find information quickly. Such tools are now available for so many subjects that a knowledge of their existence and facility in their use makes it easy to find facts which otherwise would consume much time in search. Reference books are the backbone of an elementary reference course. All other resources of the library must be available, but the beginner must first know these tools and how to use them. Without a knowledge of periodical indexes finding a certain article in a magazine, when the magazine is not known, would be like the proverbial search for a needle in a haystack. A person ignorant of periodical indexes has an attitude of bewilderment in the presence of the great mass of that form of literature. Give this same person training in the use of the indexes and he has made an adaptation which entirely changes his attitude towards the periodical world, for he knows that now he can find any particular article, or articles, on a subject quickly.

As the average college student you have done most of your reference work by the trial and failure method, which has frequently resulted in failure. Perhaps you have learned to get the varieties of information from the encyclopedias; rarely have you mastered the English dictionaries; and whole groups of reference books remain unexplored.

When you enter the library school or training class, you leave the academic study world behind and take an entirely new schedule of professional studies which require new techniques of study. All thru your previous school career one course has led naturally and logically to another; arithmetic to algebra, algebra to geometry, geometry to trigonometry, and thence to higher mathematics. The study of English grammar prepared the way for the study of other languages, and this study of languages led naturally to the study of their literatures. But for the study of reference books as such you may have no experimental background. Since we learn the new in terms of the concepts already acquired, your very first process will be to make all possible associations of the new ideas with your past experience. Most of all you will need to associate the facts about reference books with their use. You will recall many instances in your college courses where you could have used these individual books if you had known about them. It will be wasted energy for you to memorize the fact that *Poole's Index to Periodical Literature* covers the nineteenth century unless the fact is so associated that it will be quickly recalled when someone asks you to find magazine articles published during the Civil War. As you note the time the index covers think of some of the many important events of the century and of some of the things you would like to know about these events which are sure to be

[4] Ibid. Chap. 10.
[5] Ibid. p. 89.
[6] Ibid. p. 20.

included in the periodicals of the period. To know that Brewer's *Worlds Best Essays*, has a title index will avail you nothing unless you can recall that fact when you are asked who wrote an essay, *The Rise of the Moustache*.

At first the study of reference books may seem purely a task of memorizing a mass of authors, titles, dates, scope and arrangement. But do not be discouraged if your progress is slow at first. The law of initial diffuse movements operates in any new learning process. Time is required to co-ordinate movements to focus upon a single accomplishment. Remember how slow your progress was in learning to swim. At first you struggled frantically using all the muscles of your body, even to making a wry face, but you went down just the same if the water was deep. You kept on trying and gradually your movements were co-ordinated and one fine day you found that you could swim across the tank without conscious struggle. If you do not know this principle of initial diffuse movements you may become discouraged and not realize that the thing to do is to keep on trying until you get co-ordination which is sure to come to him who persists. In the study of reference books you will need to memorize many authors, titles, dates and varieties of arrangement, but these are not pitfalls and stumbling blocks for your downfall, but a part of your equipment, and the teacher will show you how so to relate and associate them with their subjects that your memory will retain them.

Gradually you will begin to think of reference books in groups covering special subjects and how they complement and supplement each other. The aim of the course will be kept clearly before you by the teacher. In the presentation the teacher will point out the fact that you must think first of the subject as a whole, and then of how the reference books cover the subject. Take history, for instance. Some reference books do cover universal history, but obviously one work cannot do this adequately and comprehensively so we have supplementary works on various subdivisions and special topics, as the history of special periods such as the mediæval, or historic movements as the renaissance, or of events as the Massacre of St. Bartholomew's Eve, or of a country as the United States, or of battles, or dates. With the history group must be associated the reference books on biography, geography, and periodicals, tho these books were studied in separate units. A clear analysis of the subject will help the association of the individual books of the group with their use and thus make learning easier and recall certain. Then when you come to study *Harper's Cyclopedia of United States History*, your first impression will be sharply delimited to United States history, biography, etc., for you will see how it fills a need in the general subject history, and supplements the reference books on universal history by being more comprehensive for this particular country.

When you get this idea clearly in mind the books presented will naturally associate themselves with their use. Their study will be a matter of understanding and not of the pure practice type of learning. In fact if you do memorize titles for recitation or examination in that way it will avail you nothing because they have not the proper association for recall and you will not recognize situations which require their use.

Definite instruction as to what to look for in reference books is given you under the headings, authority, scope, arrangement, physical make up and bibliography. One thing which greatly adds to facility in the use of reference books is their arrangement. The following methods are employed according to the variety of material and the purpose for which used: (1) alphabetic, (2) classified, (3) regional, (4) tabular, (5) chronological. The alphabetic arrangement is easiest to use and will be found in a majority of books, but some types of material do not lend themselves to this arrangement, e.g. statistics which are most useful in a tabular form, or atlases where the arrangement is regional.

To find specific subjects in any other than alphabetic arrangement, there must be an alphabetic index or indexes. Get this clearly in mind and it solves the arrangement problem, for when you pick up a book with non-alphabetic arrangement you will naturally look for indexes and lists. It is always wise to look for special tables, indexes, and lists in any reference book, even tho it has alphabetic arrangement. *Heitman's Historical Register of the Officers of the Continental Army in the War of the Revolution*, for example, is arranged alphabetically but it has useful tables of campaigns and battles, lists of French officers, etc. which can not be found thru the alphabetic arrangement.

There is always some protest against learning exact "titles." This means that the protestant is a lesson learner and has not mastered the work so that it has become an adjustment in the form of an understanding. The first time you read a title pause and think it over and form associations with the subject. For example in the "title," *Thomas, Universal Pronouncing Dictionary of Biography and Mythology*, you see that its three outstanding features are given. (1) Say to yourself that it includes universal biography, such as Plato, Caesar, Milton, Jonathan Edwards, and Woodrow Wilson. Look up one of these names and note the

amount of material given, whether there are portraits, and bibliography. (2) It is pronouncing. You remember not being quite sure of the pronunciation of Denis Diderot when you saw the name for the first time yesterday, so you look it up and note the method of indicating pronunciation. (3) It includes mythology as well as biography. Look up Perseus and make observations as preceding. You will then have many associations with that one title and thus many contacts for recall. Before the next lesson practice recall by going over the lesson.

Another illustration is the *Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics*. Note that it covers all religions and look up one in which you are interested to see how fully it is treated. Then associate ethics with religion and look up an ethical movement; do this for personages and places connected with religion for religious sects and for ethical systems. In this way you will have formed associations with its content and may have also acquired a visual concept which will help you to recall the exact title.

When you are assigned a group of reference books on a subject, say history, with a problem consisting of specific questions to be answered from these books think of the classification of that subject, as given previously, and of the necessity for being able to find information on all its phases. Read over the list of books assigned, with the notes in your text-book, and associate each book with its specific subject, and note how completely the group covers the whole subject. Next read over the questions of your assignment one of which may be; What were the causes of the Peloponnesian War? You at once classify this as ancient history of Greece. Now look over the list of books assigned for one which covers ancient history. There is none on this specific subject so you conclude you must use a book on universal history which is one of the group. Note the title on your problem sheet. The next question might be, What battlefield was called the "Field of the Cloth of Gold?" You see that this is an allusion and will probably not be included in the encyclopedias of history so you look over your notes for a book including allusions, and find one in Brewer's *Historic Notebook*. Do this for every question, then try out your conclusion by consulting the books themselves. If you do not find the information, your knowledge of the book or your judgment was wrong. Repeat the whole process until you succeed. Associate each book with the type of information it contains and note its arrangement for this adds facility in use. Think of where and how you found the fact and not of the fact itself. The tendency at first is to get interested in the particular thing you are trying to find and to forget the main object of the search which is a knowledge of reference books. Think constantly of where and how you found the information and not of the specific fact itself. Remember that it is the ability to find similar information which you are to acquire.

When you have finished finding all the questions of the assignment and have examined all the books, take time to think over the whole group of books again and relate them to their particular field of knowledge. Review again before the recitation if you possibly can. Repetition is an assistance to memory. Use your newly acquired adjustment on every occasion, discuss it with your fellow students.

This same procedure you will use in doing practical reference work at the desk. When you are asked to find information on a specific subject you will advantageously follow some such procedure as the following. 1. Consider the general class of knowledge to which this specific topic belongs. 2. Recall reference books in this class and think of their special features and limitations. 3. Reserve judgment until the book which most nearly covers this specific subject is found. 4. Decide on the book which seems most likely to contain what you want. 5. Try out your conclusion by consulting the book. 6. If your judgment or knowledge were at fault, and the information is not there, repeat the whole process until you succeed. Never give up the search until you have exhausted all possibilities and resources. 7. If the reference books in the class do not contain the information examine the whole body of literature on the subject. 8. As a final resource consult a specialist who may be in your community, or direct the patron to another library where he may get what he wants.

You have attained skill in reference work when you have so mastered its tools that you readily identify the book to be used to meet each situation. In a one year course you will have studied but a small number of the reference books you will need to know in a large reference department. It will be your pleasure to go on studying reference books during the whole of your professional career, for the books you have studied this year will sooner or later be superseded by better ones. What you should get out of this course is the ability to grasp quickly the especial value of any reference book and to carry on independent thinking in reference work. Speed is desirable but skill is gained only by much practice which cannot be given in a one year course. You should work slowly and very accurately at first gaining new knowledge from every operation. Then when you are sure of your technique, consciously work faster, but never let speed interfere with accuracy. Skill will finally be attained if you work intelligently and persistently.

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American Association of Law Libraries. *Law Library Journal . . .* published in conjunction with the *Index to Legal Periodicals.* Q. New York: Wilson. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1908–

American Library Association. *Adult Education and the Library.* Q. v. 1. no. 1, Nov. 1924– v. 1 contained seven numbers.

—— *Booklist;* a guide to new books. M. exc. Aug.-Sept. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1905–

—— *Bulletin of the American Library Association.* M. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1907–

Includes *Papers and Proceedings* of the annual meeting; *Handbook;* and *Bulletins.*

—— Children's Librarians' Section. *Bulletin.* Annual. v. 1, no. 1, March 1925–

Brief reports from the committees of the section.

American Library Institute. *Papers and Proceedings.* Annual, 1911—1921. (Not published in 1912.)

Printed in different places, title varies. Not published after 1921, tho resumption has been discussed at various times. Stock still available may be procured from the American Library Association.

American Merchant Marine Library Association. *Ammla.* Occasional. New York City.

Original plan was a quarterly issue, but has been changed to an occasional publication. Annual report last issue, December 1926.

Bibliographical Society of America. *Bulletin of the Bibliographical Society of America.* Q. Chicago Univ. Press. v. 1, 1907–

Bulletin of Bibliography. Issued 3 times yearly. Boston, Mass.: F. W. Faxon Co. v. 1, no. 1, April 1897–.

Libraries; a monthly review of library matters and methods. M. exc. Aug.-Sept. Chicago: Library Bureau. v. 1-30, 1896-1925. *Public Libraries.* v. 31 to date, *Libraries.*

LIBRARY JOURNAL. Semi-M. exc. July-Aug., M. New York City: R. R. Bowker Co. v. 1, no. 1, Sept. 1876– v. 1-44, monthly.

Official organ of the A. L. A. Sept. 1876-Aug. 1907; of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, Nov. 1876-June 1882.

Medical Library Association. *Bulletin of the Medical Library Association.* Q. Editorial office, Medical Library, McGill University, Montreal, Canada. v. 1, no. 1, July 1911– new series.

Special Libraries Association. *Special Libraries.* M. Sept.-April; Bi-M. May-Aug. Editorial office, State Library, Providence, R. I. v. 1, 1910–.

Official journal of the Association.

GREAT BRITAIN

Association of Assistant Librarians. *The Library Assistant;* ed. by F. S. Smith, Public Library, Bethnal Green, E.2, London. M. v. 1, 1898–.

Official journal of the Association.

Bibliographical Society. *The Library.* Transactions of the Bibliographical Society. Q. London. v. 1, 1889–.

Library Association. *The Library Association Record.* Q. 51 Great Russell St. W.C.1, London. v. 1-24, 1899-1922, M. v. 1-4, n.s. 1923-1926, Q.

A monthly magazine of librarianship and bibliography. Official organ of the Association; contains *Proceedings* and *Handbook.*

Librarian and the Book World. M. Lodgewood, Gravesend, London: Alex. J. Philip. v. 1, 1910–.

Library Review. Q. 17 Pitcairn Street, Brucefield, Dunfermline, Scotland: Robert D. Macleod. v. 1, no. 1, Spring 1927–.

"Popular magazine to express the best ideals of county and public co-operating libraries."

Library World. M. exc. Aug. 51 Great Russell St. W.C.1, London: Grafton and Co. v. 1, no. 1, July 1898–.

NATIONAL LIBRARIES

British Museum. *British Museum Quarterly.* London. v. 1, no. 1, May 1926–.

—— *Monthly List of Accessions.* v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1880–.

Library of Congress. *Catalogue of Copyright Entries.* Washington, D.C. v. 1, July 1891–.

Contents: pt. 1, group 1. Books. Pub. every other day.
pt. 1, group 2. Pamphlets, etc. M.
pt. 2. Periodicals. Q.
pt. 3. Musical compositions. M.
pt. 4. Works of art, etc. Q.

—— Division of Documents. *Monthly List of State Publications.* v. 1, no. 1, Ja. 1910–

* This list was compiled last year when Miss English was librarian of the A. L. A. headquarters office. The list is necessarily incomplete and Miss English and the LIBRARY JOURNAL office will welcome additions and corrections. The A. L. A. office would be glad to receive bulletins not listed here.

In compiling the British list Miss English has had the assistance of Mr. Charles Nowell, librarian of the Coventry (England) Public Libraries.

UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE AND REFERENCE LIBRARIES

UNITED STATES

Missouri. University of Missouri Library. *Bulletin.* Irregular. v. 1, 1908–.

New Hampshire. University of New Hampshire Library. *Library Lantern.* M. from Oct.-June. v. 1, no. 1, Dec. 1925–; v. 1-2. Mimeographed; v. 3, Printed.

Book notes; notes about authors and libraries.

New Haven. Yale University Library. *Gazette.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, June 1926–.

Brief monographs on items in the University Library.

New York. University of the State of New York. General bulletin series. Fortnightly. v. 1, no. 1, June 1890–.

Subject matter relating to the divisions of the university.

North Carolina College for Women Library. *Library Notes.* M. exc. July-Aug. v. 1, no. 1, Oct. 1922–.

Annotated list of additions; short articles; literary and library jokes.

Oklahoma. University of Oklahoma Library. *Books Abroad.* Q. v. 1, no. 2, April 1927–.

Foreign books.

Oregon Agricultural College Library. *Books Added.* Bi-M. (Mimeographed). v. 1, no. 1, Sept. 6, 1917–

For staff members; not intended for distribution off campus.

Oregon. University of Oregon Library. *Library Items.* Irregular, M. or semi-M. Now suspended for lack of funds; probably to be resumed in 1928. (Mimeographed). v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 20, 1920–

Recent additions; news items concerning the library.

Tennessee. George Peabody College for Teachers Library. *Book News.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, May 1924–

Mimeographed or printed list of all books added.

GREAT BRITAIN

Aberdeen University Library. *Library Bulletin.* v. 1, no. 1, Oct. 1911–

Manchester. John Rylands Library. *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, April 1903–

Brief library news; selection of accessions; scholarly papers.

Oxford University. Bodleian Library. *Bodleian Quarterly Record.* Q. v. 1, 1914–.

LIBRARY SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

New York State Library School Association. *Library School News Letter.* Irregular, 2 or 3 times a year. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1921–

News bulletin for the alumni.

Pittsburgh. Carnegie Library School Association. *News Notes.* Issued from time to time. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1922–

News bulletin for the alumni.

Washington. University of Washington Library School Alumni Association. *Bulletin.* (Each publication has its individual title). Irregular. no. 1, Dec. 1919–

Occasional pamphlets on various phases of library work based on experiences of members of the Alumni Association.

STATE LIBRARIES, ASSOCIATIONS AND LIBRARY EXTENSION AGENCIES

UNITED STATES

Alabama Department of Archives and History. *Bulletin.* M. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1925–

Acquisitions; to inform the people of the uses and activities of the department.

California State Library. *News Notes of California Libraries.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, May 1906–

News items; annual statistics; State Library accessions.

Colorado State Board of Library Commissioners. *Colorado Libraries.* Q. (Has been irregular). v. 1, no. 1, April 1913–.

Library development in Colorado.

Connecticut State Library. *Bulletin.* Irregular. no. 1, Dec. 20, 1904–

Monographs or bibliographies on special subjects pertaining to Connecticut history; a number reprinted from the state librarian's biennial report.

Florida Library Association. *Florida Library Bulletin.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1927–

Publicity.

Illinois State Library Extension Division. *Illinois Libraries.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1919–.

Papers on library development and articles about Illinois public, school and college libraries.

Indiana Library and Historical Department. Library Division. *Library Occurent.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, April 1906–

Iowa Library Commission. *Quarterly of the Iowa Library Commission.* v. 1, 1901

Kansas Library Association. *Kansas Library Bulletin.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1927–

News notes; articles and editorials.

Maine State Library. *Bulletin of the Maine State Library;* published quarterly in the interests of the libraries of the state. v. 1, no. 1, April 1911–. v. 1 consists of only one number; no issues from April 1911–July 1912.

Maryland Public Library Advisory Commission. *Maryland Library Notes.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, Oct. 1921–

General library news.

Massachusetts Library Club. *Bulletin.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1911–

Organ of the Massachusetts Library Association; news of meetings; state news.

Michigan State Library. *Michigan Library Bulletin.* M. exc. Aug.-Sept. v. 1, no. 1, April 1910–. v. 1-6 reads *Quarterly Bulletin of the Michigan State Library.*

Minnesota Department of Education. *Library Notes and News.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, Dec. 1904–

News of Minnesota public and school libraries; suggestions and aids for better library service.

Missouri Library Commission. *Library Messenger.* Irregular. v. 1, no. 1, Nov. 1917–

—— *News Letter.* M. (Mimeographed). v. 1, no. 1, Aug. 1925–.

Library news.

New Hampshire Public Library Commission. *Bulletin of the New Hampshire Public Libraries.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, March 1900– new series.

Instruction and inspiration for the library workers of the state.

New Jersey Public Library Commission. *New Jersey Library Bulletin.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, June 1912–.

News and notes from all the different types of libraries in the state, also the state association; book lists and notes on new books of general interest.

New York State Library. *Bibliography Bulletin.* Fortnightly. v. 1, 1899–.

Titles vary.

—— *New York Libraries.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, Oct. 1907–.

Material on library economy and news of New York libraries.

North Carolina Library Commission. *North Carolina Library Bulletin.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, Dec. 1909–

Articles of general library interest; book lists.

North Dakota State Library Commission. *Library Notes.* Occasional. (Mimeographed). v. 1, no. 1, June 1, 1925–.

Brief state news and useful book notes.

Ohio State Library. *Ohio Libraries.* Occasional. v. 1, no. 1, Oct. 1923–

Annual statistics; publicity. Suspended with vol. 1, no. 20, April 1927.

Oregon State Library. *Letter to Libraries.* Irregular, about once in six weeks. (Mimeographed). Issued at intervals since 1912.

Advice on book buying and library administration for the libraries and librarians of Oregon.

Pennsylvania State Library Extension Division. *Pennsylvania Library Notes.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, April 1908–. Suspended from May 1917-Dec. 1919.

South Dakota Free Library Commission. *South Dakota Library Bulletin.* Q. v. 1, 1915–.

Texas Library Association. *News Notes.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1925–

Vermont Free Public Library. Department of the State Board of Education and of the State Library. *Bulletin.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, March 1905–

Vermont library news; book reviews; articles on library science.

Virginia State Library. *Bulletin of the Virginia State Library.* Occasional. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1908–. For some years issued quarterly.

Finding lists; indexes; catalogs; miscellaneous.

Washington State Library. *Washington Libraries.* Occasional. v. 1, 1905–.

Wisconsin Free Library Commission. *Wisconsin Library Bulletin.* M. exc. Aug.-Sept. v. 1, 1905–.

CANADA

British Columbia Public Library Commission. British Columbia Library Survey. *Bulletin.* M. no. 1, April 1927–

Publicity.

Ontario Department of Education. Public Libraries Branch. *Ontario Library Review and Book Selection Guide.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, June 1916–.

For the small library; methods, book selection, news notes, and literary articles.

COUNTY LIBRARIES

CALIFORNIA

Contra Costa County Free Library. *Library Link.* M. v. 1, no. 1, July 1926–.

For custodians of branches.

Kern County Free Library. *Quarterly Bulletin.* v. 1, no. 1, not dated, issued Jan. 1920–

Accessions.

Los Angeles County Free Library. *Books and Notes.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, Oct. 1926–.

Publicity; statistics; selected list of accessions.

INDIANA

Vanderburgh County Library. Evansville Public Library. *Books and Notes.* Occasional. (Mimeographed). v. 1, no. 2, Oct. 1927–

Library news; lists of recent books.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

CALIFORNIA

Berkeley Public Library. *Bulletin.* M. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1917–

Accessions.

Long Beach Public Library. *About Books.* M. v. 1, no. 1, May 1925–.

Annotated list of new books.

Oakland Free Library. *The Library Link.* Occasional. (Mimeographed). v. 1, no. 1, Sept. 1927–.

Book reviews of interest to the parents' and teachers' association.

—— *Quarterly Bulletin of Recent Publications on Municipal Government and Administration.* Q. or Bi-M. (Mimeographed). v. 1, no. 1, Sept. 21, 1921–.

For municipal employees.

Richmond Public Library. *Monthly Bulletin.* v. 1, no. 1, Oct. 1914–.

New accessions; special lists; condensed annual report; library news.

COLORADO

Denver Public Library. *The Lookout.* Occasional. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1927–

Bulletins on pertinent subjects; first issue on music in Denver and Colorado.

CONNECTICUT

Hartford Public Library. *Quarterly Bulletin.* v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1879–.

Additions; library events.

New Haven Free Public Library. *Bulletin.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, March 1913–.
Additions.

Norwich. Otis Library and Peck Library. *Co-operative Bulletin.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, Nov. 1903–.
Classified list of additions with call numbers.

ILLINOIS

Chicago Public Library. *Book Bulletin.* M. exc. July-Aug. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1911–.
Annotated list of accessions.

Rockford Public Library. *Bulletin.* Bi-M. v. 1, no. 1, March 1905–.
Lists of new books; occasional reading lists on special subjects.

INDIANA

Fort Wayne Public Library. *School Bulletin.* M. exc. July-Sept. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1926–.
Short annotated book lists.

Indianapolis Public Library. *Reader's Ink.* M. v. 1, no. 1, May 15, 1922–.
House organ: comments on books and libraries.

Warsaw and Wayne Township Public Library. *Book Guide.* M. v. 1, no. 1, Feb. 1927–.
New books; library notes.

IOWA

Burlington Public Library. *Bulletin.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1912–.
Books added.

Council Bluffs Public Library. *Bulletin.* Once or twice a year. v. 1, no. 1, Jan-June 1917–.
Selected list of new books.

Davenport Public Library. *Bulletin.* Bi-M. v. 1, no. 1, Jan.-March 1909–. A quarterly to Dec. 1921.
Books added, fiction annotated.

Des Moines Public Library. *Book Marks.* M. v. 1, no. 1, Nov. 1926–.
Advertising recent books on various subjects.

MAINE

Lewiston Public Library. *Semi-Annual Bulletin.* v. 1, no. 1, Jan.-June 1921–.
Annotated list of accessions.

MARYLAND

Baltimore. Enoch Pratt Free Library. *Baltimore's Books.* M. exc. July-Aug. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1927–.
Library news, progress and policies; book notes.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston Public Library. *More Books;* being the bulletin of the Boston Public Library. Usually monthly; occasionally two or more numbers under one issue. v. 1, no. 1, Jan.-March 1926–.
Lists of new books added; special articles; library notes.

Brockton Public Library. *Quarterly Bulletin.* v. 1, no. 1, April 1899–.
Important new books added; library items.

Brookline Public Library. *Suggestions for Reading.* M. v. 1, no. 1, March 1927–.

Danvers. Peabody Institute Library. *Bulletin.* Semi-Annual. v. 1, no. 1, Jan.-Feb. 1900–.
Accessions.

Fairhaven. Millicent Library. *The Millicent Library Bulletin.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, June 1894–.
Books added.

Fitchburg Public Library. *Library Bulletin.* 2 or 3 times a year. v. 1, 1892–.
Books recently added.

Framingham Town Library. *Bulletin.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, April 1921–.
New books; news notes.

Haverhill Public Library. *Bulletin.* M. exc. July-Aug. v. 1, no. 1, July 1901–.
New books; article of interest on front cover.

Hopedale. Bancroft Memorial Library. *Quarterly Bulletin.* v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1926–.
All permanent additions to the library.

Malden Public Library. *Bulletin.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, April 1913–.
Books added and general information.

Milton Public Library. *Bulletin of New Books.* 4 or 5 times yearly. v. 1, no. 1, March 1923–.
Some form of bulletin published for over 20 years. Lists; recent additions; library activities. From Sept. 1927, the curator of the Historical Society has been responsible for one page.

New Bedford Free Public Library. *Quarterly Bulletin.* v. 1, no. 1, July 1922–. New series.
Books added; notices of general interest; special lists.

Newton Free Library. *Newton Free Library Bulletin.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, Oct. 1903–.
New books; library activities.

Pittsfield. Berkshire Athenaeum and Museum. *Quarterly Bulletin.* v. 1, 1898–.
July number of each volume contains the annual report.

Quincy. Thomas Crane Public Library. *Bulletin.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1912–.
Annotated list of recent accessions; news items.

Salem Public Library. *Bulletin of the Salem Public Library.* Bi-M. v. 1, no. 1, May 1891–.
New books; occasional reading lists.

Somerville Public Library. *Book Bulletin.* 8 or 9 issues a year. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1896–.
Lists of books added to the library.

Springfield City Library Association. *Bulletin.* M. exc. Aug. v. 1, no. 1, Nov. 1887–
Notes on books and selections from recent accessions; special lists; news notes.

Wakefield. Lucius Beebe Memorial Library. *Bulletin of the Lucius Beebe Memorial Library.* Q. 1926-1927. v. 1, no. 1, Sept. 1925–
New accessions with special material on front page.

Worcester Free Public Library. *Bulletin.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, March 1899–.

Library notes; selected list of additions; occasional special lists.

MICHIGAN

Detroit Public Library. Burton Historical Collection. *Leaflet.* Bi-M. v. 1, 1922–.
Brief historical monographs.

—— *Library Service.* M. exc. June-Sept. v. 1, no. 1, Sept. 1917–
Publicity.

Grand Rapids Public Library. *Bulletin.* Bi-M. v. 1, no. 1, July 1901–.
Annual statistics in March-April number; news notes; accessions; special lists; occasional articles.

Muskegon. Hackley Public Library. *Bulletin.* Irregular. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1907–.
Bibliographies on special subjects.

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis Public Library. *Community Book Shelf.* M. v. 1, 1922–.
House organ; selected list of new books.

MISSOURI

Kansas City Public Library. Teachers' Department. *Monthly Circular.* v. 1, no. 1, Sept. 1923–.
Complete list of accessions; distribution limited to school officers.

—— *Professional Progress;* printed aids for teachers. M. exc. June-Aug. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1925–.
Comment on new professional literature for teachers. v. 1-2 mimeographed, v. 3 printed.

St. Louis Public Library. *Monthly Bulletin.* v. 1, no. 1, 1878–. Irregular. Resumed Jan. 1903 under new series.
Recent additions; special bibliographies.

NEBRASKA

Omaha Public Library. *Library Notes.* M. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1925–.
Publicity; short subject bibliographies.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Keene Public Library. *Bulletin.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, April 1918–.
New books.

Peterborough Town Library. *Bulletin.* Frequency of issue varies, now twice a year. v. 1, no. 1, Nov. 1902–. Before this date no volume number, started 1895.
List of accessions.

NEW JERSEY

Dover Free Public Library. *Dover Library Bulletin.* Monthly for five years, now an annual. v. 1, no. 1, March 1915–.
Booklists; library news; annual report.

Jersey City Public Library. *Library Record.* Bi-M. v. 1, 1892–.
New books; local library news.

Newark Public Library. *The Library.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1918–.
Publicity; statistics from the annual report.

Plainfield Public Library. *Booklist.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1926–.
Books added; community contacts; annual report.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn Public Library. *Bulletin of the Brooklyn Public Library.* M. exc. Aug.-Sept. v. 1, no. 1, Feb. 1901–.
Annotated list of new books; special feature articles.

Brooklyn. Pratt Institute Free Library. *Quarterly Booklist.* v. 1, no. 1, Aug. 1899–.
Title varies.

New Rochelle Public Library. *Bulletin of the New Rochelle Public Library.* Semi-Annual. v. 1, no. 1, Dec. 1901–.
Many changes in content; now a classified list of books added.

New York Public Library. *Branch Library News.* M. exc. July-Aug. v. 1, no. 1, April 1921–.
Supplement to *Bulletin;* devoted to Circulation Department; recent additions; selected lists; articles.

—— *Bulletin of the New York Public Library.* M. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1897–.
General information about library; bibliographies; reprints; description of acquisitions; articles.

—— *New Technical Books;* a selected list on industrial arts and engineering added to the New York Public Library. Q. v. 1, no. 1, June-Aug. 1915–.

Poughkeepsie. Adriance Memorial Library. *Quarterly Bulletin.* v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1916–.
Additions; occasional notes of general interest.

Syracuse Public Library. *Library Windows.* Annual. v. 1, no. 1, Feb. 1921–.
New series, a continuation of previous publications of a like nature; selected list of the most important books added to the library.

OHIO

Cincinnati Public Library. *Guide Post.* M. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1926–.
Publicity; some recent additions to the library, annotated.

Cleveland Public Library. *The Open Shelf.* M. Nov.-June, Bi-M. July-Oct. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1894–.
Annotated list of the more popular additions to the library; editorial comment; library news of public interest; occasional special lists.

OREGON

Portland. Library Association of Portland. *Our Library.* M. Sept.-June. v. 1, no. 1, new series, Oct. 1927–.
General library news and selected list of accessions.

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh. Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. *Monthly Bulletin of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.* M. exc. Aug.-Sept. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1, 1896–.
Books added; annotations.

—— *Technical Book Review Index;* issued quarterly by the Technical Department of the Carnegie Library. v. 1, 1917–. v. 1 had six numbers.
A record of certain book reviews appearing in the scientific, technical and trade journals currently received in the Technology Department.

Pittsburgh. Carnegie Free Library of Allegheny. *Monthly Bulletin.* v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1907–.
Recent accessions.

Wilkes-Barre. Osterhout Free Library. *Bulletin.* Bi-M. v. 1, no. 1, April 1902–.
New books.

RHODE ISLAND

Newport. Redwood Library. *Booklist.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, Feb. 1915–.
Library notes; new books.

Providence Public Library. *Books for All.* M. exc. Aug.-Sept. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1926–.
News and notes; current additions, annotated.

WASHINGTON

Seattle Public Library. *Library Poster.* Irregular. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 26, 1916–. None issued since November 1923.
Lists; publicity.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

District of Columbia Public Library. *Your Library.* M. v. 1, no. 1, Nov. 1926–.
Publicity; book notes.

WISCONSIN

Kenosha. Gilbert M. Simmons Library. *Booklist.* Q. v. 1, 1926–.
Books added.

Oshkosh Public Library. *Bulletin.* Annual. v. 1, no. 1898–.
List of new books added during year.

CANADA

Toronto Public Library. *Canadian Catalogue of Books.* Annual. v. 1, 1923–.
Books published in Canada; those about Canada, as well as those written by Canadians.

——*Fore and Aft.* Occasional. v. 1, no. 1, July 1926–.
Publicity.

GREAT BRITAIN

ENGLAND

Burton-upon-Trent Public Library. *Bulletin.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, June 1926–.

Cambridge Public Library. *Record.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, Nov. 1926–.

Cheltenham Public Library. *The Cheltenham Quarterly.* v. 1, no. 1, Sept. 1926–.

Coventry Public Libraries. *Readers' Bulletin.* Bi-M. v. 1, 1923–.
Brief literary notes; bibliographies; recent additions.

Croydon Public Libraries. *The Reader's Index;* the bi-monthly magazine of the Croydon Public Libraries. v. 1, 1899–.

Finsbury Public Libraries. *Quarterly Guide for Readers.* v. 1, no. 1, July 1894–.
Recent additions; notes and news of local interest.

Fulham Public Libraries. *Readers' Guide to Recent Additions.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1926–.

Gateshead Public Libraries. *Library Record.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, July 1917–.

Halifax Municipal Libraries. *Readers' Guide to the Public Libraries.* v. 1, no. 1, April 1923–. New series.
Publicity; all additions.

Ipswich Public Library. *Library Journal.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, July 1925–.

King's Lynn Public Library. *Readers' Quarterly.* v. 1, no. 1, Feb. 1925–.

Liverpool Library. *Annual Supplementary Catalogue of the Liverpool Library.* v. 1, 1890–.
Classified list of additions to permanent stock.

London. Islington Public Libraries. *Library Journal.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, Nov. 1, 1927–.
General notes; list of additions.

London. Borough of Poplar Libraries. *Quarterly Record.* v. 1, no. 1, Oct. 1909–.
Composite classified list of additions to four libraries.

Manchester and District Library Fellowship. *Manchester Librarian.* Q. v. 1, 1921–.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Public Library. *Library Miscellany.* Q. v. 1, 1925.

Norwich Public Libraries. *Readers' Guide.* Q. v. 1, 1911–.

Nottingham Public Libraries. *Bulletin.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, July 1896–.

Southport Public Library. *Readers' Guide to Books Worth Reading.* v. 1, no. 1, 1925–.

Warrington Public Library. *Readers' Guide.* Occasional, at least once a year. v. 1, 1921–.
Recent additions.

Willesden Public Library. *Quarterly Record and Guide for Readers.* v. 1, no. 1, Sept. 1898–.
Catalog; articles on local history and literature; illustrations; reading lists.

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh Public Libraries. *Bookman's Index.* Bi-M. v. 1, no. 1, Sept. 1923–.
Selected list of additions, classified.

—— *List of Books Added to the Reference Library.* Irregular, issued as material accumulates. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1923–.
Classified list of books added to the Reference Library.

Glasgow Corporation Public Libraries. *Bulletin of Additions.* Irregular. no. 1, 1919; no. 2, 1922; no. 3, 1925–.
Additions to all the Glasgow libraries, classified, annotated and indexed.

STAFF BULLETINS

CALIFORNIA

Oakland Free Library. *Staff Bulletin.* Q. (Mimeographed.) v. 1, no. 1, June 1917–.
News of interest to staff members exclusively.

ILLINOIS

Chicago Public Library. *Staff News.* M. exc. July-Aug. v. 1, no. 1, May 1922–.

MICHIGAN

Detroit Public Library. The *Owl and the Pussycat.* Oct. May. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1927–.

MISSOURI

Kansas City Public Library. *Staff News.* M. (Mimeographed.) Date of first issue not given.

Staff news only, not for exchange.

St. Louis Public Library. *Staff Notes.* W. v. 1, no. 1, Oct. 16, 1909–.

NEW YORK

Staff Association of the New York Public Library. *Library Lions.* Occasional. v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1926–.

Organ of Association with news and announcements of interest to staff members.

OHIO

Cleveland Public Library. *Library Log;* staff news bulletin of the C. P. L. "Published as time permits." (Mimeographed.) Feb. 1921—first issue of the *Log* in its present form.

Work and recreation of the C. P. L., occasional news of other libraries.

SPECIAL LIBRARY BULLETINS

UNITED STATES

Boston Special Libraries' Association Committee. *Community Catalog Bulletin.* Occasional. (Mimeographed.) v. 1, no. 1, Sept. 1927–.

To give information about the community catalog and about the extension service of the Boston Public Library.

New York Mercantile Library. *Bulletin of the Mercantile Library of New York.* Q. v. 1, no. 1, Oct. 1881–.

List of all books acquired; rules and regulations.

New York Municipal Reference Library. *Municipal Reference Library Notes.* W. exc. July-Aug. v. 1, no. 1, Oct. 28, 1914–.

Information concerning all civic and municipal publications; primarily for officials and employees of New York City.

New York Society Library. New York City. *New Books.* Bi-M. with variations. v. 1, no. 1, Nov. 1, 1896–.

Books added.

Russell Sage Foundation Library. New York City. *Bulletin.* Bi-M. v. 1, no. 1, October 1913.

U. S. Department of Agriculture Library. *Agricultural Library Notes.* M. (Mimeographed.) v. 1, no. 1, Jan. 1926–.

Bibliographies; book notes; news notes for agricultural librarians.

GREAT BRITAIN

British Library of Political and Economic Science. *Bulletin.* Q. London: School of Economics. v. 1, 1913–.

Recent additions; short bibliographies.

HOUSE ORGANS

Gaylord's Triangle. M. Syracuse, N. Y.: Gaylord Bros. v. 1, no. 1, Sept. 1, 1921–.

Library Equipment. M. Rochester, N. Y.: Yawman & Erbe Mfg. Co. v. 1, no. 1, May 1925–.

Wilson Bulletin. Bi-M. New York: H. W. Wilson Co. v. 1, no. 1, Nov. 1914–.

New York Library Club. *Bulletin.* 6 times a year. v. 1, no. 1, Oct. 1912.

CIRCULATION OF BOOKS IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES

"I NEVER can find what I want. It's always *out*." The Public speaks.

To train a library staff whose business and interest it is to fill the wants of the library patrons; a body of workers who live with books, presiding over the collections on the shelves of libraries, who are able to produce from the rows of volumes or from some dark corner the book which you didn't know existed, and who somehow give the impression that they know about other interesting books—this is the idea which Miss Flexner has in presenting her *Circulation Work in Public Libraries.* It is designed as a textbook "for the purpose of giving . . . prospective librarians a comprehensive view of circulation work" in public libraries by giving first a functional analysis of the work in its relation to the community and then giving the technical "procedures so, that having mastered the necessary routines, [the student] may get the full value of later chapters."

The text is the result of a statement of circulation procedure assembled from libraries all over the country and presented first in tentative form for experimental use in library schools. The final volume, however, as now published is a re-statement of the subject, condensing, clarifying, and focusing the statements so that the topics are expositions of circulation department principles. The author has been able to sift the mass of varying procedure practiced in libraries and has stated a practical procedure which embodies the underlying principle of the routine. Because such a sane statement of routine is to be found here, the wide-awake circulation department will review its system, will read the text without prejudice and will revise its methods, pruning from the accepted practices any unnecessary steps or red tape which has been incorporated into the system and has remained unquestioned.

As a text for novices or for experienced librarians it should avoid or break down fixed ideas of routine, offering, instead, an end to

which flexible routine is only the means. It is a practical book: practical because a sensible procedure is given without going into the minutiae of practiced variations.

Only in the treatment of two subjects does the reviewer find the text unsatisfactory. The handling of renewals is clumsy and unnecessarily complex. And the treatment of publicity is too limited to old library ideas of exhibit collections, posters and academic-looking lists, failing to offer newer devices and to apply the test of modern publicity,—the arresting appeal to the passer-by.

The illustrative examples, of which there are a few, are also lacking somewhat in freshness of appeal. On the other hand, there are delightfully stimulating statements of functions, such as, "A report that a book is out is not enough." Almost a revolutionary statement! Also the references added to expand the topics offer many enticing avenues, stimulating the imagination of the student and suggesting new possibilities in the work.

It should be said that the book is not a primer or a code book. It indicates that the desirable aspirant to a position in the circulation department in the mature, intelligent student. Is it not possible that this standard assumed in the textbook may tend to make librarians more particular in the selection of the personnel of the department?

The thought questions appended to the chapters will be useful in directing the student to think thru the processes and to apply the principles. Those on administration seem to the reviewer to be especially searching. And the analysis of traits found in department assistants, traits which "are determined by the job," is decidedly valuable in aiding the student to evaluate himself; and the directions for developing traits and the thought questions should be practical and produce results. This chapter is contributed by Dr. Charters, director of the Library Curriculum Studies.

Italics thru the text are used wisely and with restraint. The use of bold-faced type and other chapter sub-divisions are, however, not so successful. The few forms reproduced as illustrations are practical. For the aid of the beginner the addition of some definitions would have been acceptable.

ETHEL M. FAIR,
Recently Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin Library School.

SPRINGFIELD'S LIBRARY CLUB FOR THE BLIND

To the Editor of the LIBRARY JOURNAL:

We were glad to read the article in the LIBRARY JOURNAL of November 15 on "Work for the Blind in Los Angeles" by George E. Chase. A club for blind people, similar to the one Mr. Chase describes, has been in existence in Springfield, Mass., for thirteen years. It started in a very simple way under library auspices. Meetings were held in the library building until the room was needed for other purposes. A church parish house with very comfortable rooms was then secured. Automobile transportation is furnished by the City Federation of Women's Clubs, and the large men's clubs, Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions', also help. The people who drive consider it a privilege, and are glad to repeat the service year after year. The program differs from the one in Los Angeles in that, instead of readers, we have speakers each week: people with varied interests, professional men, business men, city officials, social workers, in short any persons having a live interesting story to tell of work or of unusual experiences of any kind. Travellers have taken the blind people all over the world, members of the legislature have given the inside of what goes on in the state house, newspaper men have taken them behind the scenes, nature lovers have pictured for them wonders of the physical world, and lecturers on current events have brought the results of hours of reading and study. It is a revelation to listen to the intelligent questions which come from the sightless audience. Often the speakers are so impressed that they ask the privilege of "a return engagement." This Saturday Afternoon Club, as it is called, has a president who introduces the speakers and a secretary (an expert typist with a bright mind) who writes, after each meeting, a letter of appreciation to the speaker of the previous week. Both president and secretary are blind. Occasionally on a special occasion an elocutionist and musicians vary the program. Care is taken to provide only the best talent, which is always given free of charge. The sighted leader does not ask for volunteers—such people are always well intentioned but not always inspiring—but she is constantly on the lookout for interesting people.

It would be interesting if libraries performing a similar service for the blind people of their community tell of interesting points in which this service varies from that already described.

IDA F. FARRAR.

SOME BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON AIRSHIPS

BY ARTHUR R. BLESSING

Librarian, U. S. Naval War College, Newport, R. I.

TIMELINESS is the keynote of modern library work. Indeed, it has been well said that "forewarned is forearmed." The year 1928 is witnessing an airship building race between Great Britain and Germany. The winner of this contest will triumphantly fly his huge craft from Europe to the United States. Popular interest in airships is daily becoming more stimulated and librarians will do well to check up their literature on this subject.

Airship development is yet another victim of the late unpleasantness, which demanded the speed and agility that airplanes furnished. However, rigid airships are gradually overcoming this handicap, and they seem destined for commercial air transportation over long distances in spite of the exploits of Lindbergh and Byrd.

The history of aeronautics shows that man's earliest efforts to acquire "air-sense" were limited to contrivances of a lighter-than-air nature. Lougheed, in his *Vehicles of the Air* (Reilly), chapter 2, covers the subject rather thoroly; but Vivian, in his *History of Aeronautics* (Collins, London), part 3, presents some readable material in a more comprehensive manner. Just what the large airships did accomplish during the war is well portrayed in Hearne, *"Zeppelins and Super-Zeppelins"* (Lane) and in Lehmann, *The Zeppelins* (Sears). The latter book is largely the experiences of a naval architect who joined the Zeppelin staff before the war, commanded airships during the war, and is still connected with the Zeppelin organization.

The very best works on airships that deal with technical phases are published by the Ronald Press. This series called "Ronald Aeronautic Library" contains thus far about a dozen volumes, of which at least eight have material on airships. Five of the books deal exclusively with lighter-than-air problems: Warner, *Aerostatics;* Chandler, *Balloon and Airship Gases;* Upson, *Free and Captive Balloons;* Burgess, *Airship Design;* and Blakemore, *Pressure Airships.* The latter covers only non-rigid and semi-rigid airships. In all probability, a volume will be brought out on the rigid type. Weather topics are exhaustively treated in Gregg, *Aeronautical Meteorology.* Material on motors may be obtained from Jones, *Aircraft Power Plants;* while Eaton, *Aircraft Instruments* provides data on the navigating apparatus and minor machinery. Landing and mooring facts are dealt with in Duke, *Airports and Airways.*

As yet, aviation periodicals have not devoted much space to the subject of dirigibles. However technical notes appear in *Aviation* and *U. S. Air Services,* and also in *The Aeroplane,* published in London. The *U. S. Naval Institute Proceedings,* published at Annapolis, contains occasional articles on airships that are both authoritative and informative. The following three articles from the *Proceedings* are especially worth reading: Bartlett, "Rigid Airships—United States Ship Shenandoah," vol. 50, no. 2. Wiley, "A Celestial Cruise," vol. 51, no. 1. (describes the trip of the airship "Los Angeles," when it was used to observe the solar eclipse in 1925). Rosendahl, "Reflections on the Airship Situation," vol. 53, no. 7, is a very readable article by the commanding officer of the "Los Angeles."

Turning now to more popular accounts of dirigibles and their capabilities, book material seems rather scarce. Pratt, *Commercial Airships* (Nelson) presents a thoro survey of the subject but unfortunately the book was published eight years ago. Dirigibles are fairly well described in a recent book called *Modern Aircraft* by Pagé, and published by Henley. Specific information on actual journeys by airship is given in two books. The first is Maitland, *R-34* (Hodder, London) which is a very interesting narrative of the first air trip of any kind from Europe to the United States. The other book gives an excellent account of the first voyage by air over the North Polar regions. This title is Amundsen, *First Crossing of the Polar Sea* (Doran).

Periodical material of a general appeal is somewhat more plentiful, the best articles being found in the *Scientific American, Popular Mechanics,* and the *National Geographic.* The *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* for May, 1927 is a special number on aviation and contains a comprehensive article entitled "Lighter-than-air-craft" by Litchfield. One of the very best things in print is a sixteen-page illustrated pamphlet called *The Story of the Airship,* also by Mr. Litchfield. A third edition has just appeared and may be obtained free from the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company of Akron, Ohio.

In 1926, Great Britain and her colonial possessions held an imperial conference in London and at this meeting, the secretary of state for air submitted a memorandum termed "The approach towards a system of imperial air communications." This important document was published by His Majesty's Stationery Office and may be obtained in the United States from the British Library of Information, 44 Whitehall St., New York City. It easily outranks all other publications in its thoroness and ably presents the future airship program of the British empire. The new airship (R-100) now being built in England for the trans-Atlantic flight is minutely described. Incidentally, the *New York Times* for 29 January 1928 printed a most readable article describing this modern conveyance. It was written by one of the designers of the craft, and is well worth clipping for future reference.

There are two well-known annuals that include sections on airships. One is published by the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce of America, Inc. and is called *Aircraft Yearbook*. The other is *All the World's Aircraft* (London: Sampson Low) and is the most detailed work of its kind. The United States government is sponsor for an official body designated as the "National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics." This board of experts renders an annual report that is worthy of preservation in any library. While technical for the most part, its publications of airship data will be found useful to the student.

Kipling has said of aviation "We are at the opening verse of the opening page of the chapter of endless possibilities." Libraries can do much in adding their lines to this opening verse by bringing to their patrons' attention bibliographical material on aircraft. Long-distance transportation by air is just around the corner and librarians of vision will wish to be prepared when the rest of the world reaches this corner.

BULLETINS OF THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF INTELLECTUAL CO-OPERATION

Since the inauguration of the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation in January 1926, as a development of the work instituted by the League of Nations Committee on Intellectual Co-operation, three journals, of interest to librarians, have been appearing under the editorship of the Institute: *The Bulletin for Scientific Relations*, *The Bulletin for University Relations*, and the *Bibliographical Bulletin on International Affairs*. Each of these contains material relating to bibliography and libraries in their international aspects.

The most general and comprehensive is the *Bulletin for Scientific Relations*, which serves as the official organ of the Section of that name. It purposes "to publish current information on international scientific relations." Appearing quarterly, the initial number being of July 1926, five issues have now been distributed to subscribers. One of the most important features, carried thruout, is the section devoted to meetings of international congresses in all fields of research. One part of this is given over to reports of past meetings, including occasionally complete programs, and always a summary of the resolutions passed. Such information is supplied by the secretary of the congress, or is extracted from a journal. In either case, the source is indicated. Another part is given over to advance notices of congresses to be held, with information on questions to be discussed, brief programs, and names of individual speakers and administrative officers. Projects for the unification of bibliographical undertakings, looking toward economy of effort in the establishment of adequate international bibliographies in specific subjects, have been reported on at length. Notably, in the issue for February 1927, is a complete account of the discussions and resolutions of the International Committee of the Historical Sciences on the proposed annual historical bibliography. In May 1927 appear the resolutions adopted at the meeting of the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation to study ways and means of co-ordinating the bibliography of economic science, with suggested plans for a single organ of international scope. Resolutions adopted by the Committee of experts appointed to inquire into the co-ordination of biological bibliographies, are printed in the August number of last year. Recommendations are made there that the League take certain steps toward standardization and unification of such bibliographic work, co-operating with individuals in the several countries, all findings to be submitted to the Institute for further action. Information on the needs and activities of libraries, when such are of international import, figures in a special section on libraries. The most far-reaching problem affecting libraries which has engaged

the attention of the Institute, and which has been reported on at length in the *Bulletin*, is the proposed establishment of an international information service on library resources. Pursuant to this, a questionnaire was sent to two thousand of the principal libraries of all countries. Responses, to the number of 306, were printed in the issue of November 1926; a continuation in later numbers bringing the total to 367. The arrangement of these responses is a geographical one, by country and city, with an alphabetical index of cities at the end. Much of the information reported is important, and should be of real service, particularly with respect to subjects of specialization in libraries, research facilities and privileges. It is to be hoped that if this material is later assembled for separate publication, the list of libraries may be augmented, since by no means are all important libraries now included; that libraries may be more specific in their responses (in many instances there seemed to be uncertainty as to the nature of the information desired); and that an index of subjects of specialization may be provided. The language of the *Bulletin* is predominantly French. For leading articles, a translation or summary in English is frequently given, and contributions submitted in English, and extracts from English journals, are printed in that language.

The *Bulletin for University Relations* is a continuation of the *Bulletin of the International University Information Office* of the League of Nations Committee on Intellectual Co-operation. The title was changed with the January 1926 number, but the volume numbering of the former was retained. In the contents of the journal there was no marked change, except a more strict limitation to the subject of international university relations. The logical classification employed in the arrangement of contributions, with the adequate table of contents, make it well adapted to reference use. Each issue is divided into four parts: 1. International factors of university life (reports of conferences and conventions, international lecture courses, educational cruises, national institutes abroad, international student associations). 2. The national universities and their international relations (reports from individual institutions, arranged by country, on matters of international significance, i.e. number and nationalities of foreign students in attendance, exchange of students and professors, admission requirements, new courses of international interest). 3. Communications from the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation. 4. Bibliography (reviews of books and periodical articles on university problems).

The *Bibliographical Bulletin on International Affairs*, issued jointly by the Research Centre on International Affairs, and the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, is a selective monthly bibliography including books and periodical articles in all the principal European languages. It furnishes a guide to current material on the economic, social and political conditions of all countries. The arrangement is a classified one: 1. Generalities (subdivided by subject). 2. International relations (by country). 3. National questions (by country). A second major division is devoted to the international organization of intellectual work, further subdivided according to the specific aspects of the subject. About four hundred periodicals are examined monthly, but seldom more than one hundred are listed as represented in any one issue. Items in a single issue average three hundred and fifty. The bibliographical information given is adequate for reference purposes: for books—author, title, year, place, publisher, year, format, paging; for periodicals—a corresponding substitution of the name of the periodical, month and year (or volume and part number), and inclusive paging. When a title is misleading or gives no clue to the subject matter, a brief descriptive note is added. Titles in the lesser known languages such as the Slavic and Scandinavian, are followed by a translation into French. A key to periodical abbreviations is printed on the inside of the back cover. It shares the weakness common to most selective bibliographies, that of important omissions. Then too, because it covers a very broad and loosely defined field, it fails to fill adequately any gap in subject bibliography, and is therefore disappointing to the general worker in bibliography. However, students of special subjects in international affairs and relations, such as minorities for instance, would be rewarded by a sifting of all the issues. A subject index is provided for each number, but as yet no cumulation, and no general index has been published. The indexes would be of greater service if more specific headings had been used, and if the general subjects had been subdivided where possible. To make it of permanent value, a cumulation and an adequate author and subject index would be desirable.

RUDOLPH H. GJELSNESS,
Assistant Librarian, University of Michigan.

CALENDAR

March 9-10. At Atlantic City. Meeting of New Jersey Library Association and Pennsylvania Library Club.
April 3-5. At Riverside. California Library Association.
May 21-23. In Washington, D. C. Annual conference of the Special Libraries Association.
May 28-June 2. At West Baden, Ind. Annual conference of the American Library Association.

MAGAZINES FOR THE FAMILY

SELECTED BY THE INDIANAPOLIS PUBLIC LIBRARY STAFF

WHEN an S.O.S. call came to the Indianapolis Public Library for a list of magazines in which the average American family would be interested, the staff was shaken a bit out of the even tenor of its ways. Of just whom is the average family composed—your family, my family or the one that lives down on O'Connell's Hill? There is of necessity a father and mother. The father, let us say, is a manager or employee in a small business. The mother is a church member and belongs to a parent-teacher association. She also takes a small part in two or three clubs. There is perhaps a son who has reached the dignity of sixteen years; then to make the circle complete, another son and daughter are still struggling along in the elementary school. This is the average American family, the one which comes into the public library every day.

It is for them, then, that the following list of magazines has been chosen. A vote was taken from the entire Indianapolis Library staff and this list of eighteen titles was compiled from that survey. It is not assumed, of course, that the family would subscribe for all these periodicals, but the compilation was made with the idea in mind that any one or more of the magazines would be enjoyed and needed in such a family.

American Magazine. Crowell Publishing Company, Springfield, Ohio. Monthly. $2.50.

"The *American Magazine* deals with life, with real everyday life. And since life is infinitely varied our material has to be infinitely varied too." This statement by the editor indicates the magazine's scope.

Child Life. Rand McNally and Company, Chicago, Illinois. Monthly $3.

For children from five to ten years of age. Its pictures and sprightly decorations, done partly in color, its puzzle page and stories, make it a monthly treat for the youngsters.

Current History. New York Times Company, New York City. Monthly. $3.

Each issue gives without comment a survey of events of the past month, as well as leading articles by outstanding publicists, statesmen and economists. For the person who wishes to form his own opinion this selection of articles on problems of the day, national and international, is unusually helpful. Many maps, charts and cartoons.

Garden and Home Builder. Doubleday, Doran & Company, Garden City, New York. Monthly. $3.

Garden and Home Builder appeals to persons of cultured tastes and moderate income. Articles on home building and gardens, both fruit and flower, are presented in a most attractive way. Many excellent illustrations.

Good Housekeeping. International Magazine Company, Inc., New York City. Monthly. $3.

The housewife of today whose task has become increasingly complex will find in *Good Housekeeping* an efficient tool. The magazine is, however, not exclusively for the housewife. In each issue there are short stories, a serial or two and a number of special articles by good contributors.

Harper's Magazine. Harper and Brothers. New York City. Monthly. $4.

Since this magazine has been before the public over seventy-five years a description seems scarcely necessary. *Harper's* still holds its high place among literary magazines. Recently it has changed its somber cover for one which will make a brilliant splash of color on any library table.

Ladies' Home Journal. Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia. Monthly. $1.

The usefulness and popularity of this magazine can be judged by its circulation of two million. A typical woman's magazine with various departments, including fashions, needlework, and housekeeping, as well as serials and short stories.

Literary Digest. Funk and Wagnalls Company, New York. Weekly. $4.

One of the most popular of current events magazines. By selecting excerpts from foreign and American periodicals an effort is made to present all sides of a question, whether religious, social, political or cultural. All members of the family, from the eight year-old boy and his sister to grandmother and grandfather, will look forward to its weekly appearance.

National Geographic Magazine. National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C. Monthly. $3.50.

A fascinating monthly visitor telling of travels in all countries on the globe. Manners and customs of strange peoples, and plants and animals from far corners of the earth are among its features. Illustrations, some in color, are the chief attraction. Most of the thrills and none of the discomforts of travel are to be found in an evening with the *National Geographic.*

Nature Magazine. American Nature Association, Washington, D. C. Monthly. $3.

A monthly magazine devoted solely to nature subjects. It is full of excellent pictures, mostly photographs, and the articles are well written and authoritative. Tho the magazine is designed to appeal to younger members of the family, parents will find that its appeal is irresistible for them as well.

Outdoor Life—Outdoor Recreation. Outdoor Life Publishing Company, Mount Morris, Ill. Monthly. $2.50.

Office man, busy man,
Sit by the fire and read
How other men, less busy men,
Have by big game been treed.

Yes—or treed big game. In this magazine there is much about angling and much about many other kinds of outdoor life and adventure.

Popular Science Monthly. Popular Science Publishing Company, New York. Monthly. $2.50.

Just what its name implies, a profusely illustrated popular magazine of mechanics and inventions. The man or boy who enjoys working with his hands will find material to his liking. The numerous short articles cover, among other things, aviation, automobiles, ships, radio, health and hygiene.

St. Nicholas. Century Company, New York. Monthly. $4.

Long a favorite magazine, it still proves popular. Boys and girls from ten to fifteen enjoy the stories and the many other good features, such as "The Watch Tower," a review of current events, the radio section, and articles of timely interest.

Saturday Evening Post. Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia. Weekly. $2.

A widely circulated, inexpensive magazine of especial interest to men. The fiction is of varied excellence, the articles are timely and nearly always by prominent contributors. The editorials are keen, but the policy is to reflect rather than form public opinion.

Scientific American. Scientific American Publishing Company, New York. Monthly. $4.

One of the oldest American scientific magazines written in plain non-technical language for men and boys who have no specific training but whose scientific interests are general. Even the feminine members of the family often like the short articles and the many illustrations.

Survey Graphic. Survey Associates, Inc., New York. Monthly. $3.

Issued as an illustrated monthly number of *The Survey*. Concerned with present day social and economic problems. A thought-provoking magazine, which acts as a stimulating mental irritant.

Time. Time, Inc., Cleveland, Ohio. Weekly. $5.

A condensed weekly digest covering a wide field. A bit frivolous in tone but its scope, arrangement and concise articles make it of value to the busy person in school or out who desires to be well informed.

Youth's Companion. Perry Mason Company, Boston, Massachusetts. Monthly. $2.

A juvenile magazine with good serials and short stories of interest to all members of the family. It has many special departments, among them the "Y. C. Lab." which will appeal especially to ingenious young people. A staid old favorite much changed and brightened in its monthly form.

MR. FOSTER'S ANNIVERSARY AT PROVIDENCE

On February 4 anniversary exercises were held at the Elks Auditorium in celebration of the end of the first half-century of service to the community by the Providence (R. I.) Public Library. On the previous evening William Eaton Foster, Providence's librarian, was tendered a testimonial dinner at the University Club in recognition of the fact that his term of distinguished service coincided with the life-span of the library. History was in a measure repeating itself, since Mr. Foster's actual connection with the library began before the latter first opened its doors to the public on February 4, 1878. The charter was obtained in 1874, and Mr. Foster, who had graduated from Brown University in 1873, was appointed in 1877. A year was spent in assembling ten thousand books for public use. Early in 1878 the books were installed in their quarters in the Butler Exchange; on February 4 the library was thrown open for inspection and for the issue of library cards; and circulation of books began on the following morning.

About forty guests attended the testimonial dinner, among them George H. Locke, former president of the A. L. A., William H. Faunce, president of Brown University, and Harry Lyman Koopman, librarian of that university. The Board of Trustees presented Mr. Foster with a 1519 Horace to add to his remarkable Horace collection. Resolutions commending his service were contained in the book, presentation of which was made by Theodore Francis Green, secretary of the Providence Public Library.

More than three hundred guests attended the anniversary exercises the next evening. Addresses were made by Mayor James E. Dunne, Mr. Foster and Dr. Locke. Mr. Foster's *First Fifty Years of the Providence Public Library, 1878-1928*, a history in pamphlet form written for the anniversary, was distributed to the audience. Mr. Foster described the library's growth in contacts with various classes of seekers after knowledge—business men, musicians and students; with hospitals and other social agencies, and in the field of adult education. "It is well to remember that a public library is not a charitable institution, but nevertheless it gravitates into co-operation with all such institutions," he said. He made acknowledgments of appreciation and gratitude to the long line of donors to the library. "Mention must be made here of John Nicholas Brown, whose gifts of more than $268,000 in 1897 and in the following years made possible the construction of the present building. Also mention must be made of Miss Lyra Brown Nickerson, whose large bequests in 1916 saved the Library from stagnation."

Following the program at the auditorium the audience adjourned to the library building, where an historic exhibit of the library was on

view. In the receiving line were Mr. and Mrs. Foster, Professor and Mrs. Gardner, and Dr. Locke. Members of the library personnel acted as ushers both in the auditorium and at the reception.

Mr. Foster's colleagues in the library field paid tribute to his career in an article by W. A. Macdonald in the *Boston Evening Transcript* on the day of the anniversary. Carl H. Milam, A. L. A. Secretary, sent the tribute of over ten thousand members of the A. L. A. George Parker Winship wrote: "His information service was years ahead of any other library. He kept it ahead, in his quiet way, even after the big cities took it up. He has provided material for women's clubs, for business people. Other libraries have gone to him for methods, and with his ideas have made great names for themselves. For fifty years he has been reaching the particular communities that he was anxious to serve. His work among the foreign peoples has been well ahead of that of others. He has showed libraries how to use the newspapers to reach the people. And he has kept going and thinking under difficulties."

WILLIAM EATON FOSTER, NOW IN HIS FIFTY-FIRST YEAR OF SERVICE AT THE PROVIDENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Charles K. Bolton, librarian of the Boston Athenæum, briefly reviewed Mr. Foster's position as a library pioneer and concluded:

"He has the charm of modesty which is fortunately for us frequently found among real scholars. His gentleness, his modesty, are proverbial in library circles; his alertness of mind, his willingness to keep abreast of the times, and his profound scholarship have made him beloved throughout the country. He has been a frequent and useful attendant at State and national library conventions. Wherever he goes he inspires confidence and affection. In an age when most men are restless and many ineffective, Mr. Foster has exhibited the finest traits of the old stock. He came from a family which in early colonial times lived up to its tradition of gentle blood, and what is much more interesting he has by his career shown that a good, old New England family can still produce leaders who adapt themselves to an era that is revolutionary in its methods and in its determination to achieve results."

A. L. A. PERIODICALS SECTION

THE Periodicals Section of the A. L. A., organized last year, suggests that all librarians of periodical literature will find food for thought and possibly basis for action in the work of this new Section. Membership is open to all who are interested. Dues of fifty cents are payable now to the secretary-treasurer, Janet Doe, New York Academy of Medicine, 2 East 103rd St., New York City.

RADIO VOTERS' SERVICE
PRESENT PEACE PLANS

Radio List Compiled by the American Library Association

February 28

Speaker, James G. McDonald, president of the Foreign Policy Association.

Kirby Page. *An American Peace Policy.*

This book outlines a program for a United States peace policy. It advocates participation in the World Court, the outlawry of war, and co-operation in the League of Nations, as the most promising agencies for the realization of universal peace.

"Peace Talk," in the *Outlook* for November 30, 1927.

A proposal for an American doctrine of world peace, by H. W. Steed in *Current History*, for December, 1927.

FREE ON REQUEST

Catalogue of the Avery Architectural Library, a memorial library of architecture, archaeology and decorative art, New York, 1895. 1139 p.

Columbia University Library has a number of copies of the catalogue on hand and will send a copy, so long as the supply lasts, express collect, to libraries that make request for one.

FORTY IMPORTANT AMERICAN BOOKS OF 1926

At the request of the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, the American Library Association has selected the forty books in the United States during 1926 which it considers most worthy of inclusion in a *Word List of Notable Books. The World List*, published by the Institute, in Paris, is confined each year to six hundred titles, and the purpose of the list is to acquaint nationals of each country with the best literary production of other countries. The number allowed each country is apportioned on the basis of its total publishing output.

Instructions received from the Institute direct that "the works chosen should deal with an important subject, in an original and interesting manner and be capable of being read by a person of average culture."

On the following list will be found two books by men of foreign birth, one a Hindu, the other an Englishman. But, since both these men live and write in the United States and their books have been published here, their eligibility for the list has been allowed.

In compiling the list, the A. L. A. headquarters staff has had the co-operation of a number of distinguished librarians, scholars, and specialists in various fields. The result therefore represents a consensus of opinion, and not individual judgment.

HISTORY

Adams, James Truslow. *New England in the Republic, 1776-1850.* Little, Brown. 452p. $5.

Mims, Edwin. *The Advancing South.* Doubleday, Page. 319p. $3.

Nash, Roy. *The Conquest of Brazil.* Harcourt, Brace. 458p. $5.

Sedgwick, Mary Katrine. *Acoma, the Sky City.* Harvard University Press. 314p. $4.

Sullivan, Mark. "Our Times" 1. *The Turn of the Century.* Scribner. 810p. $5.

Thomason, J. W., Jr. *Fix Bayonets!* Scribner's. 245p. $3.50.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

Hayes, Carlton J. H. *Essays on Nationalism.* Macmillan. 279p. $3.

Ise, John. *The United States Oil Policy.* Yale University Press. 547p. $7.50.

Martin, Everett Dean. *Meaning of a Liberal Education.* W. W. Norton. 319p. $3.

Moon, Parker T. *Imperialism and World Politics.* Macmillan. 585p. $3.50.

Puckett, N. N. *Folk Beliefs of the Southern Negro.* University of North Carolina Press. 644p. $5.

RELIGION

Browne, Lewis. *This Believing World.* Macmillan. 347p. $3.50.

Mukerji, Dhan Gopal. *The Face of Silence.* E. P. Dutton. 255p. $3.

Whitehead, A. N. *Religion in the Making.* Macmillan. 160p. $1.50.

PHILOSOPHY AND PSYCHOLOGY

Brownell, Baker. *The New Universe.* D. Van Nostrand Company. 455p. $4.

Durant, Will. *Story of Philosophy.* Simon & Schuster. 577p. $5.

Edman, Irwin. *Richard Kane Looks at Life.* Houghton Mifflin. 319p. $2.50.

Randall, John Herman. *The Making of the Modern Mind.* Houghton Mifflin. 653p. $3.50.

Terman, Lewis M., and Catherine M. Cox. *Genetic Studies of Genius.* Stanford University Press. 2v. $5.

BELLES LETTRES AND ART

Guillaume, Paul, and Thomas Munro. *Primitive Negro Sculpture.* Harcourt, Brace. 134p. $6.

Mumford, Lewis. *The Golden Day.* Boni and Liveright. 283p. $2.50.

Sherman, Stuart. *Critical Woodcuts.* Scribner's. 348p. $2.50.

DRAMA

Anderson, Maxwell, and Lawrence Stallings. *Three American Plays.* Harcourt, Brace. 263p. $2.50.

Green, Paul. *Lonesome Road.* Robert M. McBride. 217p. $2.

O'Neill, Eugene. *The Great God Brown.* Boni and Liveright. 383p. $2.50.

BIOGRAPHY

Allen, Hervey. *Israfel.* Doran. 2v. $10.

Brown, Rollo W. *Dean Briggs.* Harper and Brothers. 322p. $3.50.

House, Edward M. Ed. by Charles Seymour. *Intimate Papers of Colonel House.* Houghton Mifflin. 2v. $10.

Krutch, Joseph Wood. *Edgar Allen Poe.* Alfred A. Knopf. 241p. $4.

Nock, Albert Jay. *Jefferson.* Harcourt, Brace. 340p. $2.75.

Sandburg, Carl. *Abraham Lincoln.* Harcourt, Brace. 2v. $10.

Yarmolinsky, A. *Turgenev.* The Century Company. 336p. $4.

SCIENCE, NATURAL AND APPLIED

Andrews, Roy Chapman. *On the Trail of Ancient Man.* Putnam's. 375p. $6.

Beebe, William. *The Arcturus Adventure.* Putnam's. 439p. $6.

Crile, G. W. *Bipolar Theory of Living Processes.* Macmillan. 405p. $5.

Herrick, C. J. *Brains of Rats and Men.* University of Chicago Press. 382p. $3.

Morgan, T. H. *Theory of the Gene.* Yale University Press. 343p. $4.

Naturalist's Guide to the Americas. Williams and Wilkins. 761p. $10.

Newman, Horatio Hackett, ed. *Nature of the World and of Man.* University of Chicago Press. 566p. $4.

Spoehr, H. A. *Photosynthesis.* Chemical Catalog Company. 393p. $6.50.

LIMITATIONS OF THE UNION LIST OF SERIALS

MR. DRURY has given, in the LIBRARY JOURNAL, Jan. 1, p. 14-16, a delightful review of the *Union List of Serials in [the] Libraries of the United States and Canada.* The importance of this work amply justifies generous statements concerning its value. The financial cost of bringing it to completion together with the immense amount of labor on the part of the cooperating libraries further warrants a high estimate of its importance.

Mr. Drury has indicated something of the limitations of the volume as issued. There is significance in the fact that the project was begun with the expectation that forty thousand titles would compass the field, while, even by the inclusion of nearly double that number, a really large list of serials has been omitted. Incidentally this emphasizes the extent of the field of research resources.

Comprehensive and inclusive as the book is, it has other limitations in addition to those which Mr. Drury has sketched, and students may be aided if some of these are made a matter of record at once for those who now begin the use of the work and may be convenienced by a brief statement of some details.

The holdings of the various libraries are in general indicated by volumes rather than by dates, while investigators ordinarily inquire for material by date rather than volume. A specific case will illustrate. A member of the faculty of Colgate University wished to consult a file of the *Examiner* for obituary sketches which were published in connection with the decease of some Baptist leaders. It was impossible from the holdings of the *Examiner* as given in the *List* to be certain where the particular years which he needed were available. If the holdings had been reported by dates rather than by volumes the situation would at once have been definite. This is only one example of thousands in the list as published. The work would have cost much less and would have been far more useful if in planning for it the matter of volumes had been omitted altogether and each serial handled merely with reference to dates. As it is, the users, in many instances, will find it necessary to calculate from the volume record whether a date is available and will be unable to do this with certainty.

The double perpendicular mark for indicating the discontinuance of a periodical is superfluous since a closing date in itself indicates that the publication ceased. This mark was one of the heritages carried over from the past with economic loss.

Another minor detail of real significance is the use of the plus sign rather than a hyphen to indicate an open entry, the hyphen being preferable because it may easily be used to close an item by adding the closing date when a publication ceases, whereas this cannot be done with the plus sign.

Two or three individual entries will illustrate other types of details.

The German publication which began in 1701 with the title *Altes und neus . . . theol. wis. . . .*, which is broken up in the *List* is really a single serial and should have been entered as such with the necessary cross references. I am the more certain of this because PCC appears to be the only library with a complete set and I was interested to make an extensive examination of the file and to report the relation of the different titles as a single set.

The combination of the *Old and New Testament Student* with the *Biblical World* is an example of bringing together two sets which are quite distinct, each having its own volume arrangement, the description of the beginning of the *Biblical World* as a new series being only nominal. No one looking for the *Old and New Testament Student* would think of finding it under the *Biblical World.* It is only fair to add that this was pointed out at the time that report was made.

A similar case which illustrates this combining of essentially distinct serials is found in the handling of the *Bible Student* as part of its successor the *Bible Student and Teacher* continued as the *Bible Champion.* It is to be added that the *Bible Student* to the close of 1903 was published at Columbia, S. C., not New York, as in the *List*, and was so reported by PCC.

One cannot escape the feeling that the *List* is an outcome of acquaintance with technical

bibliography rather than experience in actual research. A combination of the two was obviously desirable as the plans were being made.

Another item is of interest. The provisional edition of the *List* included both the American Baptist Educational Commission and the National Baptist Educational Convention as main entries, each one carrying the same holding. This was pointed out by PCA. The final edition takes that into account but adds an erroneous statement under the main entry by indicating that only one volume was issued by the National Baptist Educational Convention, tho both volumes have precisely the same title. Incidentally, after PCA had thus furnished information its holding was altogether omitted.

Early in the work notice was given that no title was to be reported for both PCA and PCC, which was quite suitable. A sentence to this effect in place of some of the contents of the Introduction which essentially duplicate portions of the Preface would have been useful, without added cost. Such information was the more needed because some of the early titles were left with both PCA and PCC holdings, suggesting that these are the only ones where the two libraries duplicate.

If what has been given were merely a matter of criticism the items would hardly be justified in view of the immense utility of the work in spite of its infelicities. Attention is called, therefore, to the above items in particular, and to the fact that to some extent they represent classes of items, in order that there may be opportunity at once for users of this indispensable work to take such data into account.

FRANK GRANT LEWIS, *Librarian.*
Crozer Theological Seminary, Chester, Pa.

DR. ROLAND-MARCEL COMES TO AMERICA

PIERRE Roland-Marcel, who will arrive in New York at the end of March, is one of the European personalities now much in the public eye, writes Henry Lemaître, editor of the *Revue des Bibliothèques*, so highly appreciated are his activities in the library world, both in connection with his administration of the Bibliothèque Nationale and with matters of international organization thru the Institute of Intellectual Co-operation and the League of Nations.

Previous to his nomination as director of the Bibliothèque Nationale in 1924, Dr. Roland-Marcel was associated with the offiice of the Ministry of Public Instruction, and since taking office he has inaugurated a series of measures contributing to the modernization of that library.

Electric lights have been installed in the main reading room to allow for longer hours of opening, and a shop has been opened to sell at a low price facsimiles of prints and sketches as well as stationery. Telephones and a photostat have ben installed. Last year, on the occasion of the Exposition du Siècle de Louis XIV the Galerie Mazarine was restored to its original splendor. This great room in which Cardinal Mazarin assembled his pictures and statues, had, during the nineteenth century, been used for permanent exhibitions of manuscripts and bindings, and had been disfigured with show cases which have now ben removed. An oval room in the new building this room has been set apart for current periodicals. A bibliographical service has been inaugurated for research workers.

PIERRE ROLAND-MARCEL

For a better understanding of the special collections of all the libraries of France Dr. Roland-Marcel has arranged at the Bibliothèque Nationale a union catalog of all the collections which can be consulted. Until this catalog is printed, the library answers all the requests for information which are addressed to it from abroad.

Further, since all Parisian libraries are beginning to be burdened with books rarely used Dr. Roland-Marcel is considering the creation at Versailles of a great storehouse which will serve as a reservoir for all. The 2,500,000 duplicates of the Bibliothèque Nationale in particular will be transported there.

THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

FEBRUARY 15, 1928

As the A. L. A. conference will be held this year in May, it is none too soon for librarians to obtain leave of absence and make preparations for the journey. The trustees of the larger libraries have mostly accepted the responsibility of sending the chief librarian and, in some cases, other delegates at the expense of the library, and the example should be followed by the lesser libraries wherever the budget can possibly permit such expense. West Baden and neighboring French Lick hotels will afford the best of hotel accommodations and there will be a full program for a week of interesting features, among them plans for the future sustentation and development of the A. L. A. thru endowments. In addition to the first million dollar Carnegie Corporation grant there is on the horizon a probable gift of a third million in case an intervening million be raised otherwise. It has been arranged that membership accessions since the proffer was made should be counted in on the basis that every hundred dollars in annual dues, represents on a five cent return a capitalization of $2,000. Thus every new membership obtained counts not only as a member but also as a contribution to an endowment, so that there is literally redoubled motive to obtain new members. The place selected for the 1928 conference is so central that this is likely to be the largest on record, and tho the general sessions no longer give occasion for discussion, there will be opportunity for personal intercourse thru the various group meetings.

American librarians will give cordial welcome presently to Dr. Roland-Marcel, administrator-general of the Bibliothèque Nationale of France, who comes to us by invitation for a brief study of American library conditions and methods. He is giving a new spirit to the great French national library, still the largest in the world, and is seeking to make it an integral part of a co-ordinated system of library service as Sir Frederic Kenyon is doing on a national scale for Britain as the principal librarian of the British Museum. Still more notable in current development is what is going on in Rome, where W. W. Bishop, J. C. Hansen and Charles Martel, leaders in bibliography, are to make careful investigation and report upon the Vatican library as a means of service to scholars thruout the world. The plan has the direct approval of the Holy Father, for his own experience as librarian is not forgotten. It is proposed to catalog the incunabula in which the Vatican Library is supremely rich, start a plan for cataloging the manuscripts and perhaps prepare a catalog of some special section of the library as a pattern for what may ultimately be a complete catalog of its books. This admirable scheme is part of the great plan of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, of which President Butler is chairman and leading spirit, and which incidentally provided for the study of library methods in America by several of the Vatican Library staff, two of whom have now returned to Rome to participate in the pending work.

The Library School in Paris has now issued the program which has been under consideration for a long while, the pith of which is the proposal that it shall, if possible, become a foreign feature of a great American university, whether one which has or has not a library school being left an open question. If Columbia and Chicago are not bidders for the honor, Harvard, Yale or Princeton may have opportunity to do work abroad quite as important as archaeological exploration. The plan calls for a budget of $62,000 a year and involves a number of professional courses, extension work and like features. Its future clientèle will be preferably from existing libraries on the continent, whence experienced members of the staff will be sent to Paris to obtain knowledge of American methods and the American outlook. The school has already made its mark, not only in France but in other countries, and its continuance under the best auspices should certainly be assured.

The book which Dorothy Canfield Fisher prepared, with much hard work in research and writing, at the instance of Dr. Keppel in the Carnegie Corporation's promotion of adult education, has become in considerable measure a textbook in that field, tho its negative title *Why Stop Reading?* needs to be comple-

mented by *Punch's* celebrated advice to those about to marry, "Don't!" A positive textbook in this field, by way of illustration and proof of what the book and the library mean to the adult worker, is to be found in the autobiography of Thomas A. Watson, *Exploring Life*, a fitting title for the story of a man who, starting from the stable in Salem, Mass., where his father was foreman, became the assistant and associate of Alexander Graham Bell in the development of the telephone, thru which he was the first to hear the human voice. He found in the Boston Public Library, which he continually consulted, much of the scientific information needed to perfect the telephone, retired with a telephone fortune to develop personal culture, and entered with his wife the Massachusetts "Tech.", returning to his mechanical work with a modest shop which developed into the great Fore River shipbuilding organization. He devoted a second fortune to its development and then resumed his personal culture by studying the human voice as a member for a season in England of Benson's "crowd" in his Shakespearian company, and has lived one of the happiest and most fortunate of lives because he did not stop reading as a means of personal cultivation. This is a book which every librarian may well read to acquaint himself with such definite proof of the value of a public library and from which every reader at a public library might delightfully profit.

IN THE LIBRARY WORLD

GENERAL

A TABLE compiled by the A. L. A. shows 957 students in library service registered during the current academic year at twenty-one schools in the United States and Canada: Atlanta having 21, Buffalo 30, University of California 50, Columbia 195, Drexel 27, Hampton 8, Illinois 107, Los Angeles 36, McGill 20, Michigan 57, New York State Teachers College 19, Pittsburgh 50, Pratt 25, Riverside 25, St. Louis 32, Simmons 76, Skidmore 5, Syracuse 19, Washington 40, Western Reserve 74 and Wisconsin 41.

Forty-five states and the District of Columbia are represented, seven Canadian provinces and eleven foreign countries. New York State leads with 132 registrants, California has 102, Ohio and Pennsylvania 71 and 69 respectively, followed by Michigan with 57, Illinois 49, Massachusetts 45, Washington 38, Missouri 34, Minnesota 32 and Iowa 30, leaving some three hundred registrants from the less populous states and those remote from library schools—a number not far below the annual number of graduates of the schools belonging to the Association of American Library Schools but a few years ago.

DELAWARE

CAREFUL analysis of the distribution of books from the central building of the Wilmington (Del.) Free Library shows that beyond a mile radius the use of the library for reading purposes falls off over fifty per cent. Some closely settled sections are two miles from Tenth and Market Streets. The library has no branches and at present no funds with which to erect branch buildings. Two sites are available, thru the co-operation of the Woodlawn Trustees, Inc., one at Second Street, and the other at Sixteen and Union Streets, but these must be built upon before January 1, 1930. Four attractive original sketches for branch buildings designed by Brown and Whiteside of Wilmington and two by Tilton and Githens of New York City, architects of the main library, are offered with this statement of facts to the citizens of Wilmington in a brochure of fifteen pages. The two branches designed by the latter firm show consideration of the present architecture of Wilmington, one branch building displaying a colonial design and the other being a much simplified version of the present central library.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE'S public library, the Enoch Pratt Free Library, no longer stands at the foot of the list of American libraries as to per capita book use, nor are the service costs of the library still the highest of any city library in the country, states Joseph L. Wheeler in his annual report for 1927. A modern and effective central plant is in sight, with the passage last May of a municipal loan for three million dollars for a new central library building, but the failure of the city to grant an increased appropriation for 1928 has caused disappointment. The library still has the smallest and lowest paid staff of any large city library in the country. The staff yields in professional spirit to none, however, as may be seen by the fact that sixty-eight of its members took the courses in the first summer library course arranged at Johns Hopkins University last summer at their own expense and without promise or expectation of any financial benefit or promotion.

Reclassification, following a modification of

the Library of Congress classification, has proceeded on the books added prior to 1908. With the funds at present available it can hardly be finished before six or eight years.

Plans have been approved for the erection of a $12,000 branch library building at Westport. The library's part in this project will not be resumed until the building is completed. The whole question of branch libraries will be carefully considered before any more are established, so that the type best fitted for the neighborhoods concerned may be adopted.

Establishment of larger library service in the schools of the city has again been postponed, owing to the failure to secure larger appropriations for 1928.

A general increase of 52 per cent in circulation was noted for the year, 1,670,203 books being issued in 1927 as compared with 1,096,709 in 1926. The gain at the Central Library was 103 per cent for the year, due partly to the Open Shelf Room. There were 35,926 new registrations in 1927. Over sixty thousand books were added to the book stock, which now numbers 558,324 volumes. The bookbuying policies of the library are described in an article, "Stepping on the Librarian's Heels" in the October *Atlantic Monthly Bookshelf Reprint*. The 1925 cost figure of 28.8 cents per book lent was cut down to 22.6 cents, a decrease of 22 per cent, bringing the library within sight of the average cost of other libraries (16.2 cents in 1925). Local conditions make it impossible ever to reduce costs in Baltimore to the general average. The year's receipts in 1927 were $387,091, of which $292,292 represents the city appropriation and $50,000 the fixed Enoch Pratt annuity.

MICHIGAN

For a quarter of a century the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Public Library has been systematically collecting books on furniture and the allied arts from all parts of the world to make a specialized library worthy of a city whose name has come to connote the manufacture of furniture. The first great purchase was made by Samuel H. Ranck in 1904 when he secured for the library all the books on the subject shown by the French book trade at the World's Fair in St. Louis. After this purchase the Library Board appointed a committee of furniture designers to work in an advisory capacity with the librarian and the board in the selection of books.

Some indication of the richness of the collection is given by the *List of Books on Furniture* issued by the library in connection with the hundredth Furniture Market in Grand Rapids in January 1928, a cloth-bound bibliography of 143 pages with subject index and brief annotations. It was given away at the exhibit of some two thousand books and portfolios of plates arranged by the library in the Furniture Temple. Magazine articles are not included in the list, altho bound volumes of furniture magazines are noted.

The most-prized item in the collection is the first edition of *The Gentleman and Cabinet-maker's Director*, by Thomas Chippendale, published in London in 1754 and perhaps the most famous book on furniture ever printed. The library has the third edition of Sheraton and a good facsimile reprint of the 1794 edition of Heppelwhite. Twenty titles describe famous collections of furniture.

CALIFORNIA

A circulation which rose from 987 in 1912-13 to 138,803 in 1913-1914 and had reached 1,701,088 in 1926-27 is only one measure of the growth of the Los Angeles County Free Library, fifteen years of the history of which is outlined by Helen E. Vogleson, county librarian, in October *Books and Notes*, the quarterly issued from the central library at 201 North Broadway, Los Angeles. To her predecessor, Celia Gleason, and to Mary L. Jones, assistant librarian, Miss Vogleson assigns the credit of laying the foundation and establishing the system which has become the largest county library in existence. Miss Gleason was appointed December 23, 1912, resigning May 1, 1924, and Miss Jones was assistant librarian from June 1913 to August 1919.

The county library law first enacted by the California Legislature in 1909 was patterned after existing county library acts. The 1909 law was repealed by the 1911 legislature and an entirely new law was passed. This law has been proved and used as a model law by several states. Under it, the support of the library was especially provided for by a tax to be used only for library purposes. In Los Angeles County the tax is levied upon all county property lying outside the seventeen municipalities maintaining free public libraries. The maximum rate for a county library is set at ten cents on the hundred dollars. In Los Angeles the tax rate has never been above six cents. For the past two years it has been four cents and for the year 1927-28 it is three cents. The Los Angeles County Free Library was established by a resolution of the Board of Supervisors passed Sept. 5, 1912, making the library a department of the county government with headquarters at the county seat. In December 1912 the library began work with a desk

and typewriter, but no books, on the then unfurnished tenth floor of the Hall of Records. It moved from there in 1921 to the present ground floor location at 204 North Broadway.

The first request was received from long-distance telephone from Willowbrook and the first consignment of books was sent there in April 1913. In three months, or by June 30, 1913, the end of the fiscal year, eighteen branches had been established. Altogether there have been 217 community branches operative at some time, and the greatest number operating in one year was 132. At the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 1927, there were 160 active branches. The decrease in number has come about for three reasons. Two communities have withdrawn to establish their own library. Twenty-eight branches have been discontinued or consolidated, and twenty-six have been in territory annexed to adjacent cities: one to Glendale, two to Long Beach, one to Pasadena and twenty-two to Los Angeles.

In the fifteen years from 1912 to 1927 the total number of books in the library, excluding supplementary texts, has been 372,883 volumes. The net total on June 30, 1927, was 258,914. The Central Library acts as a clearing house and holds a stock of about 45,000 at headquarters, including the Teachers' Library of over 15,000 volumes. The total expenditures have amounted to $1,951,495, of which 41 per cent ($817,338) has been spent for books, binding and periodicals. The number of library borrowers registered on June 30, 1927, was 91,945, or 22.42 per cent of the estimated population in territory served.

AMONG LIBRARIANS

Charles H. Brown, librarian of the Iowa State College, has been placed on the staff of the Federal Bureau of Education Land Grant College Survey as a specialist in library science. His work consists of the organization of an extensive study into the policies, methods of organization and control, administration and support of the libraries of the Land Grant Colleges. Attention will be devoted to the educational standards being maintained in the libraries and their functions with regard to existing instruction and research.

Julian S. Fowler, who is completing his sixth year's service as librarian of the University of Cincinnati, becomes librarian of Oberlin College in September, succeeding the late Azariah Smith Root.

Mabel Gillis will be in charge of the California State Library during Milton J. Ferguson's year's leave of absence, announced in our last number, to study with S. A. Pitt, director of the Glasgow public library system, conditions in the Union of South Africa with a view to devising a development scheme for libraries there. Mr. Ferguson hopes to see the state library in its new building in June.

Francis J. Hudleston, librarian of the British War Office and author of *Warriors in Undress* and *Gentleman Johnny Burgoyne*, died recently at the age of 58.

Gertrude E. Robson, 1909 Simmons, has accepted the position of curator of the Abernethy collection of the Middlebury College Library, Middlebury, Vt.

Lois M. Rogers, 1923-24 New York Public, succeeds the late Mildred Lawson as librarian of the New Rochelle (N. Y.) High School Library.

The service rendered to libraries in New York by Frederic W. Stevens, who died recently in that city, writes Arthur E. Bostwick of St. Louis, deserves mention in our current literature. "Mr. Stevens was for years a member of the board of trustees of the New York Free Circulating Library and served actively on its library committee. He and the late William W. Appleton were especially influential in furthering in New York that type of library activity which has now made our public library an instrument of popular education without detracting from its scholarly influences. Known personally and loved by all members of the library staff, Mr. Stevens was not only a friend in need to all of them, but his ability in finance, which he inherited from his eminent grandfather Albert Gallatin, and his sane and constructive ideas in administration, made his advice and guidance of the greatest value and have left their mark on library administration not only in the city of New York but elsewhere throughout the country."

Martha M. Vaughn, 1923 St. Louis, has been promoted from senior assistant to librarian of the City Branch, Fresno (Calif.) County Library.

Tilton Wead, 1926 St. Louis, resigned her position as assistant in the Alton, Illinois, Public Library to become librarian of Monticello Seminary, Godfrey, Ill.

CURRENT LITERATURE AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

THE January *Mount Holyoke Alumnae Quarterly* sketches some ninety years of history of the Library's expansion from a room twenty feet square, and outlines future plans to meet the needs of a rapidly increasing enrollment for which the present building, dating from 1905, is inadequate.

THE eighteenth, and last, installment of Clarence S. Brigham's *Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690-1820*, covering Virginia and West Virginia, appears in the just published April 1927 (new ser., vol. 37, pt. 1) *Proceedings* of the American Antiquarian Society. The material will now be gathered into a volume with an historical introduction and an index of titles and names of printers. Mr. Brigham welcomes additions and corrections for incorporation in the list in book form.

Las Bibliothecas en los Estados Unidos, by Ernesto Nelson, former inspector general of secondary education in Argentina and delegate to numerous expositions and congresses, is a comprehensive work of over four hundred pages published by the Interamerican Section of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Its clear treatment of all types of libraries and library administration and technique as well as its useful appendices suggest the desirability of its being translated into other languages, including English.

RESULTS of a preliminary inquiry on the part of the Pan-American Union regarding the libraries of Latin American countries are printed in Union's February *Bulletin*.

The table listing 106 libraries containing 4,791,407 titles (exclusive of data for seventy additional libraries now on hand) is the first, in the opinion of Charles E. Babcock, the compiler, ever compiled for Latin America, and a supplementary list for which statistics are not yet available contains the names of some two hundred and fifty institutions.

A FIFTH edition, entirely rewritten, of *Periodicals for the Small Library*, by Frank K. Walter, differs from earlier editions in that "all inclusions or omissions of titles are based on the votes of two hundred and twelve collaborators instead of on the final decisions of the editor." The resulting list, consisting of two hundred and ten titles—including thirty-eight new ones, and omitting thirty formerly included—is, as Mr. Walter points out, a "percentage" or "frequency" list based on expressed preferences of experienced librarians as well as on their actual experience, and checked by the opinions of college students not engaged in professional library work. (A. L. A. 1928. 91p.)

AS THE result of a questionnaire regarding indexes for Department of Agriculture publications sent to librarians and others interested, it has been decided that:

The 25-number indexes of "Farmers' Bulletin" and "Department Bulletin" series will be discontinued. Title pages and tables of contents for volumes of twenty-five numbers will be published, commencing with "Farmers' Bulletin" No. 1276 and "Department Bulletin" No. 1151. (The latter series was discontinued at No. 1500 and was superseded by the "Technical Bulletin" series, beginning with No. 1.) Title pages and tables of contents of "Technical Bulletins" for volumes of twenty-five numbers will likewise be published.

Cumulative index of "Farmers' Bulletins" Nos. 1001-1500, and for "Department Bulletins" Nos. 1-1500 (the entire series) will be published as soon as possible.

The 5-year cumulative *Yearbook* indexes, published thru 1915, will be discontinued. Each issue is indexed and the indexed material of the Yearbook will be contained in the complete analytical index.

A complete analytical index for all publications of the U. S. Department of Agriculture from 1901-1925 (exclusive of periodicals, excepting the *Journal of Agricultural Research* and the *Official Record*) is now in preparation. When that is published, indexes will be prepared for convenient periods after 1925.

AMONG work under way in the bibliographical field the *News Sheet* (No. 7, December 15, 1927) of the Bibliographical Society of America notes the following:

Donald Coney, librarian, Delaware College, supplementary work to Foley's *First Editions of American Authors*, under the sanction of Mr. Foley. The work was started as a problem in advanced reference work at the University of Michigan.

Miss Barr of Columbia, Voltairiana, to be published soon.

Boyd B. Stutler, Charleston, W. V., now working on a John Brown bibliography; has checked and classified about eight hundred titles.

Frederick J. Shepard, Buffalo, N. Y., Johnson's Island bibliography. Johnson's Island in Lake Erie was a prison for Confederates in the Civil War, 41 titles, annotated. This work is to appear in the *Grosvenor Library Bulletin*, Vol. 9, nos. 3 and 4.

Bureau of Railway Economics, Washington. Typewritten bibliography of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Almost complete.

Mrs. D. C. Dorian, 49 Delavan Street, New Brunswick, N. J. Two subjects: Theodore Winthrop, Grub Street in the 18th century. Mrs. Dorian would be glad to hear of references.

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Albert Caplan, Temple University, Philadelphia. "I am preparing a bibliography of Sir Walter Scott and I expect to do considerably more research."

THE reorganization last year of the library of the Society for Psychical Research, London (31 Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.) was made the occasion of cataloging the collection and the 367-page *Library Catalogue* compiled by the Society's honorary librarian, Theodore Besterman, is published by Robert MacLehose and Co., the University Press, Glasgow, Scotland.

A grant by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust of £250 a year for four years is available for the purchase of books and the Society looks forward at the end of that time to providing borrowers and reference workers with a thoroly representative collection on psychical research and on the neighboring departments of psychology and philosophy.

The present catalog contains many notes on the scope of the respective works—as far as possible in the words of their writers, numerous reprints are referred to their original sources, mention is made of bibliographies, and there are references to reviews in the Society's *Journal* or *Proceedings*.

A Medium Graded Book List for Elementary Classroom Libraries, compiled by Florence E. Bamberger in collaboration with the course in children's literature (Elementary Education II) of Johns Hopkins University is circulated by the Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore.

Having in mind the significance of a correct taste for books coupled with skill in using available library resources, the students in this course made a comparative study of seven graded lists and whenever a book was recommended for a special grade by three or more it was included in the *Minimum Graded List*, which thus "shows the divergence and agreement in grading, the spread of choice for each book, and provides summaries of this distribution." The lists thus compared are the A. L. A.-N. E. A. *Graded List of Books for Children* of 1922; the 1925 *Children's Catalog*, Terman and Lima's *Children's Reading* of 1926, *The Winnetka Graded Book List*, the Johns Hopkins *Bamberger List* based on four years of classroom experience, the Maryland State Department list printed in the *Maryland Library Bulletin*, September 1926, and the Baltimore City reading list. The number of titles selected and compared is 426.

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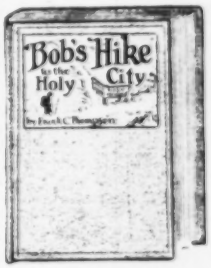

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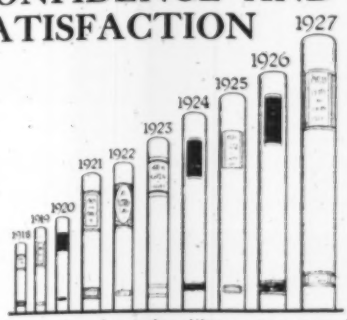

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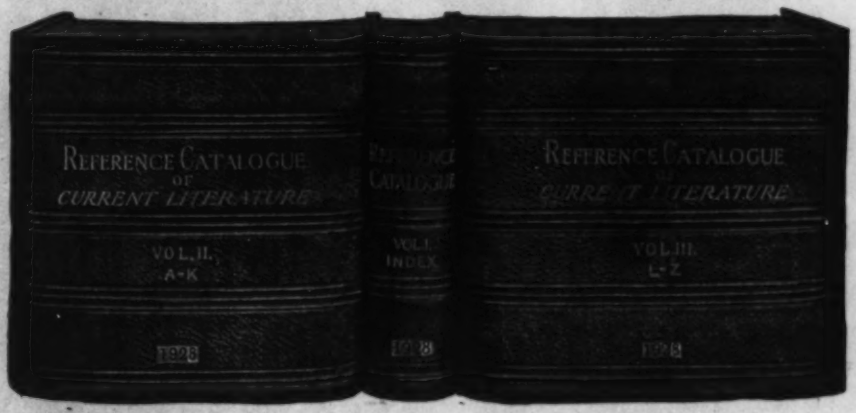

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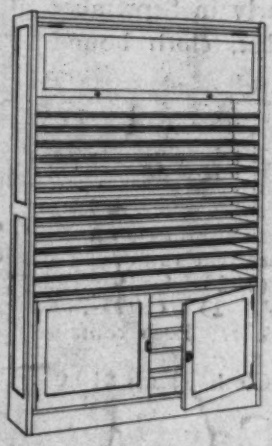

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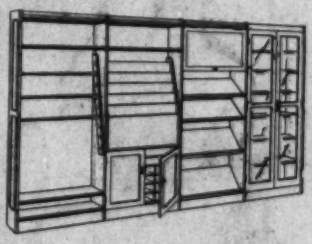

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